

WHETSTONE BROOK GENEALOGY

GENEALOGICAL AND OTHER RESEARCH SERVICES

6 December 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

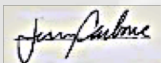
I write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Brattleboro Cable Television (BCTV) is a focal point for the dissemination of government and educational programs to the Brattleboro area. Last year in FY 2018 BCTV produced over 2500 hours of this type of programming, through over 2500 programs.¹ The programs included live recordings of area town government meetings; artistic and cultural events; programs on education and health. BCTV trains producers to go out and produce programs that bring government decision making into the homes of their constituents. This is the bedrock of democracy: the free flow of credible information to local area residents. I was the public Library Director in Brattleboro, from 1993 to 2015. During that time, we used volunteers from BCTV to video record and edit programs that extended our life-long learning events far and wide into the community. Programs, such as, *First Wednesdays*, a humanities lecture series, as well as authors' talks, health and wellness programs, children's literacy programming, among others. BCTV was there to support and enhance the public library's mission, which is : *to connect people and resources to inspire, inform, and empower our diverse community.* ²

This local presence enables the residents of Brattleboro, Vermont, to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



Jerry Carbone,
Whetstone Brook Genealogy (former Library Director, Brooks Memorial Library, 1993-2015)

¹ Brattleboro Community Television, *Annual Report to its Members, Fiscal Year, July 1,2017-June 30, 2018*, web site (<https://www.brattleborotv.org/> : accessed 6 December 2018), pages 12-13. About BCTV>Annual Reports>Annual Report 2018.

² Brooks Memorial Library, *Strategic Plan 2017-2021*, web site (<http://brookslibraryvt.org/about/mission-and-plans> : accessed 6 December 2018).